PHONEMES AND ORTHOGRAPHIC SYMBOLS

/p/	p	/m/	m	/f/	f
/b/	b	/n/	n	/v/	v
/t/	t	/ŋ/	ŋ	/s/	s
/d/	d			/ʃ/	sh
/tʃ/	c			/l/	l
/dʒ/	j			/r/	r
/k/	k			/ɣ/	gh
/g/	g			/h/	h
/ʔ/	’			/w/	w
				/y/	y
/i/	i			/ʉ/	ʉ
/e/	e			/u/	u
/ɛ/	ɛ			/o/	o
		/a/	a		

Labialization: gw, kw, ŋw
Palatalization: by, fy, ky, my, ny

Tones:

3 level tones	high, mid, low
4 glides	high-mid, mid-low, low-very low, low-mid

In the orthography only the low tone is marked.

EXAMPLES

a	tap	house
b	bo	hand
c	ca	this
d	dù	has gone
e	ye	to eat
ɛ	nyɛɛ	monkey
f	nfe’	clock
g	ŋgwa	wife
gh	gha’	to surpass
h*	haba	exclamation
i	yi	his
j	njap	vegetables
k	kop	forest
l	la’	compound
m	mò’	another
n	enɛ	says
ŋ	ŋko’	basket
o	bo	hand
p	bʉp	bird
r	mrɛ’	yams
s	sa’	machete
sh	shaŋ	prison
t	to	hole
u	kur	to wrap
ʉ	tʉr	to have
v	vʉ̀	came
w	war	to cry
y	yop	to sing
’	sa’	machete

* rare phoneme

ALPHABET

a b c d e ɛ f g gh h i j k l m n ŋ o p r s sh t u ʉ v w y ’

number of graphemes 2

Alphabets of Africa
edited by Rhonda L. Hartell
Published by UNESCO Regional Office in Dakar (BREDA)
12, Avenue Roume, B.P 3311, Dakar, Senegal
ISBN : 92-9091-020-3
© UNESCO, 1993
Printed by BREDA Press